Child protection in schools

1378. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure child protection in schools;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a lot of schools do not have basic amenities like separation toilets for male and female children in the schools and safety mechanism for protection on the roads outside; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) to (c) There are provisions in laws for the protection of children both within and outside schools. These include:

(i) **The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009:** Section 17 of the Act provides that no child shall be subjected to physical punishment or mental harassment and whoever contravenes the provision shall be liable to disciplinary action. The States have notified Government orders prohibiting corporal punishment in schools. The National Commission for Protection of Children (NCPCR) has also issued guidelines on corporal punishment in August, 2007 and again in May 2009 and March, 2012. NCPCR also takes up complaints of violations of children's right to protection in schools and outside the schools with the concerned authorities of the State Governments and UT Administrations from time to time for remedial measures.

(ii) **The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000:** Section 23 of the Act provides that whoever, having the actual charge of or control over, a child, assaults, abandons, exposes or willfully neglects the child or causes or procures him to be assaulted, abandoned, exposed or neglected in a manner likely to cause such child unnecessary mental or physical suffering shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may be extended to six months, or fine or with both.

(iii) **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, 2012:** The Act penalizes management or staff of an educational institution with higher punishment for committing sexual offences against children. The law helps in prevention of an offence, thereby protecting a child from sexual abuse.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, prescribes norms and standards for a school. As per the latest figures available under the District Information System for Education (DISE) 2010-11, 80.87% schools have separate toilets for girls.

Misuse of Dowry Prohibition Act and Domestic Violence Act

†1379. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Dowry Prohibition Act and Domestic Violence Act are being misutilised;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any report from Commissions for women from Uttar Pradesh and other States on these facts;

(c) if so, details thereof and reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government plans to make amendments in these acts in order to prevent their misutilisation; and

(e) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) A few complaints/ representations alleging misuse of the Dowry Prohibition Act (DPA), 1961 and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA), 2005 together with alleged misuse of Section 498A of the IPC have been received. These complaints are primarily against alleged misuse of Section 498A of IPC rather than any specific provision of the DPA, 1961 and PWDVA, 2005.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Adequate safeguards are already available under existing laws to deal with misuse, if any, of legal provisions.

Beneficiaries under ICDS scheme

1380. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.